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UNCLAS ANKARA 007611

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SUBJECT: DECEMBER 1-2 VISIT TO TURKEY OF UKRAINIAN PM
YANUKOVYCH

This message is sensitive but unclassified.

1. (U) The December 1-2 visit to Turkey of Ukrainian PM Yanukovych focused mainly on bilateral economic relations. In the first-ever visit of the PM of an independent Ukraine to Turkey, the two nations discussed bilateral trade and signed environmental and cultural agreements. At the end of the visit, Yanukovych invited PM Erdogan to visit Ukraine in the spring.

2. (U) According to Ukrainian Embassy and Turkish MFA officials, the visit focused mainly on bilateral economic relations. Ukrainian Embassy officials said Turkey is Ukraine's fourth leading trade partner. According to Ukrainian figures, total bilateral trade was USD 1.4 billion in 2002, consisting mostly of Ukrainian exports to Turkey. Both sides pledged to double trade volume in 2004 and promote more investment.

3. (U) The two sides also signed an environmental agreement. Although they have not released the text, Ukrainian Embassy officials said the agreement essentially repeated a dormant agreement the two countries signed five years ago.

4. (SBU) Turkish officials raised concerns about increased Black Sea oil tanker traffic through the Bosphorous, but did not raise specific objections to the decision to reverse the flow of the Odessa-Brody pipeline. Yanukovych avoided discussion of the reversal decision but explained that Ukraine had agreed with Poland to build an extension from Brody to Plock in central Poland. The two sides agreed to encourage Turkish firms to participate in the construction.

5. (SBU) The two sides discussed Ukraine's bid to join NATO. PM Yanukovic requested GOT support for Ukraine's membership action plan (MAP). The GOT, while generally supportive, told the Ukrainians they needed to continue force upgrades. The two side also agreed to continue regional counter-terrorism and anti-crime cooperation.

EDELMAN